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9-22-1940

### Letter, Virginia Brainard to Dudley and Merl Brainard [September 22, 1940]

Virginia Brainard

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Roberts Hall

Iowa State College  
Ames, Iowa

Sept. 22, 1940

Dear Daddy and Mother,

This is my first Sunday away from home and I'm still going strong! Not a bit of homesickness - yet - even though I'm thinking back to last Sunday. It's 8:45 and we've just finished breakfast - we had cherries (canned), cook cereal (I ate it!), bacon and hot date muffins. The food is pretty good except in spots. One spot was There, ~~there~~ - noon. We had cottage cheese and sweet potatoes!! But I ate bread and butter with it. Sometimes I don't get holy enough to eat but I'm gaining weight anyway. When I weighed in during my physical exam Fri. I weighed only 121 pounds.

I'd better start at the beginning now, and tell you everything that's happened since Mother left There wasn't

anything on until that evening which was the Freshman Mixer. It was awful. All the upperclassmen crashed it and there was a horrible mob and I've never been so hot in all my life!! I'll never forget that night as long as I live! It wasn't at all organized, either. We just danced and went home at 10.00.

Friday morning we had breakfast at 7:40 which meant getting up at 6:15! We had to be over at the Gym by 7:30 for our Psychological ~~exams~~. They were just like the ones we had last year at T.C and so well organized, too. We were through just before 9:00. After that <sup>came</sup> the English Placement tests, but having had one year of college English, I didn't have to take them.

At 9:30 our group went over to the Physics building to have our official college pictures taken. I can just imagine what mine looked like!! I'd been walking in the snow and we didn't have any time to comb our



2. hair and I felt like a terrible mess. After that was all over, we had the rest of the morning free so I went over to the campus Bookstore to buy my books. They<sup>ve</sup> cost me \$9.91 so far and I still have one more to buy. At that, I got three of them second-hand. My Chemistry book cost me only \$30. I've dropped one course, Applied Art, because they substituted my Tech. Journalism course for that, and so I'll take my books and supplies for that course back and get a refund.

I also went into the office of the Dean of the Junior College to check my program. My Journalism course has been arranged for but I discovered later that my Economics course is not Economics but Sociology - and that's what you wanted me take next summer at home, Daddy. So I'm going back to see if I can't change it. I'm enclosing an itemized account of everything I've spent so

far and the list of my books is on that.

Well, Friday afternoon I went over to the Gym to register. We had to fill out blanks and more blanks and it was so hot! Our class schedules, or programs, had already been made out for us and they just handed mine to me. This is how it stands just now.

	8-9	9-10	10-11	11-12	-2	2-3	3-4	4-5
Mon.		chem. 105A	Tech. J. 225B		Ec. 384	Sp. 311		
Tues	Tex. <sup>104</sup> clothing	→	chem. 105A		chem. 105A			
Wed.	Library 106B	chem. 105A	Tech. J. 225B		Ec. 384	Sp. 311	Counselors Hoxer	
Thurs	Textiles + clothing 104		Chem. 105B					
Fri			Tech. J. 225B		Ec. 384	Sp. 311		
Sat	Textiles + clothing 104							

I'm carrying 15 hours and I still have to work in Phy. Ed. We can't register for that until Tues. I like this program very much. It looks hard — especially that 3 hour Chemistry period but I don't care. It's worth it. I can



3. hardly wait for classes to start, I want to get going on this journalism so badly that I hate this waiting around even tho' there's so much to do.

I paid my fees as soon as I'd finished registering. They cashed my check and gave me \$107 in cash. Out of that I paid \$62 — \$38.00 - registration and \$32.00 for my room. 14.00 - ~~fee~~ outside lounge 10.00 - matriculation  
A total of only \$94. Where \$62.00  
did you figure \$107? I paid my board yesterday. It was \$18 for a month. I've got \$20 left I think that's right. I'm enclosing an itemized account.

I've spent some of the \$54 so I now have \$20.00 left over and about \$18 in change. So that is the account of all the money I've spent so far. I have plenty now to carry me through to November.

12'30

I've just come back from church. Rev. Barlow preached a wonderful sermon and the whole service was the most inspiring one I've ever attended. I kept thinking of all of you going to church at home and of last Sunday. Your letters to me came yesterday and it was such a thrill to get my first mail from home! I wanted you to get this today but I just didn't have any time at all so I'm sending it special and you should get it tomorrow - altho' you'll get it tomorrow anyway. Guess I'll save the special for week end mail.

After I finished registering Fri. at 3:30 we went over to the Hospital for our Physical Exams. They took nearly 2 1/2 hours! My letter from Dr. Goehr didn't help at all except with the Wasserman and T.B. and Schick tests. I didn't get any of them.



4 Friday evening were the Divisional  
and President's Receptions. All the Home  
Ec students went over to Mackay auditorium  
in the Home Ec. building. I met Dean  
Genevieve Fisher, head of Home Ed dept,  
Dean Mcbells, head of Tech Hl, Mrs Lathier  
(Mocker + I talked with her last Spring)  
And, Mocker, I wish you'd call Dorothy  
Verrill and tell her that I met Miss  
Miriam Lowenberg. She asked me to  
be sure and remember <sup>to meet</sup> her. She's very  
charming and I liked her very much.

After the Home Ec reception, we  
over to Great Hall in the ~~the~~ Union and  
shook Pres Freely's hand. Then Mary  
Lou met me and we went downtown  
for some ice cream, and I just barely  
got in at the crack of 10:00 just made  
it! I was so tired that night that I  
just beched! My feet hurt so! It was  
terrible! But fun anyhow. I'm not  
used to all this walking and it wears  
me down, especially as my feet hurt



me so badly.

2:30

Last night was the Presbyterian Freshmen Mixer at the Collegiate Presby. Church. I had a wonderful time and met some perfect fellows. (I have to finish in pencil because I've run out of ink and can't get anymore until tomorrow.) After the party I went over to the Union with a Theta Xi (frat) fellow. He was very nice and I like him alot.

Yesterday afternoon Don and I went to the first football game. It was simply sweltering! We played Luther College and took them 27-0. Some game!

Tonight (Sun.) we're invited over to Springers for supper. They've <sup>been</sup> simply wonderful to me. Mrs. Springer has called me several times to find out how I'm getting along and I appreciate it so much. It certainly helps to know that someone here is



5. helping me<sup>to</sup> make my adjustments." I also called Hazel and Edward and I'm going out there as soon as they get settled.

I like the three girls I'm living with very much — especially Virginia Richter. And the more I know of Janet (my room mate) the more I like her. She's been going three rushing and is isn't around very much and she goes around with a different crowd anyhow — all of them girls also going three rushing.

Now please don't give up those tickets to the Flagblad concert so I can be initiated into P.E.D. I know only one girl I've ever met who's a P.E.D. and I know that if I were initiated at Christmas I would be way, way too busy to take any part in it besides going to school. So I think I'd better not try anything like that for at least another year. I'll be far too busy. And anyhow I'd much rather go in with my own



crowd of girls. So please lets forget  
it for another year or so. I just  
couldn't handle it, that's all there is  
to it.

I'd better finish this so I can  
mail it tonight. I like the  
college so much and I know I'll  
be very happy here! I am already  
and that's a sure sign I miss  
all of you very very much but if  
I start feeling homesick I just  
stop and think "Would I want to  
be back home right now?" and the  
answer is "No, I wouldn't!" I miss  
all of you and all my friends but  
I just couldn't go there another year  
at T.C. It isn't what I want. I'm  
pretty sure we haven't made a  
mistake on this course. After classes  
start, I'll know for sure but there's  
very little question in my mind  
but what this is the only thing I'd  
ever be absolutely happy in -  
P.S. Tell Connie & Eleanor All my love  
I'm writing them  
tomorrow. Virginia